



# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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## ● Special Extension Of Temporary Administrator Status

**All individuals who have applied for and been issued “temporary administrator” certification (for the law changes affecting telecommunications or the rule changes affecting the 03A, 06, 06A, 07, 07A, 07B, and 10 electrical specialties) will have the expiration date of the temporary certification extended to December 31, 2002.**

We allow this extension of temporary status with reluctance out of respect to the individuals that put forth intense efforts to meet the original timelines and successfully complete their administrator examinations. However, the disruption of construction schedules, training programs, and contractors’ plans caused by the rapid economic downturn in Washington (due to the events of 9/11/01 and economic factors) and the complete overhaul of our electrical examination content, review, and delivery system has resulted in many written requests for additional time to complete this certification process that is essential to maintaining the ability to conduct an electrical contracting business. **There will be no further extensions of these temporary administrator certificates.**

## ● Electrical Board Recruitment Still Open

Stakeholders in the electrical industry still have the opportunity to make application for positions on the Electrical Board. Members meet quarterly (usually in Tumwater) and provide direction and oversight that is vital to the State of Washington’s electrical licensing and inspection program.

Four Electrical Board appointments are scheduled to expire on July 7, 2002. There is one position each representing: licensed electrical contractors, certified electricians, telecommunications utilities, and citizens. Incumbent members and other interested qualified persons may apply for these positions.

The Electrical Advisory Board consists of fourteen (14) members appointed by the Governor for a regular term of four years per member. Representation on the Board includes three electrical contractors, one electrical utility representative, one manufacturer, three certified electricians, one combination electrical/RCDD certified engineer, one general public member, one telecommunications worker, one telecommunications contractor, one telecommunications service provider and one building official (non-voting).

An *Application for Gubernatorial Appointment to a Board or Commission* form is necessary. Requests for copies of the application and any questions may be directed to Angie Wharton at (360) 902-5259 or Rhonnda Jenkins at (360) 902-5572. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, completed application form, and current resume to the office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, PO Box 44460, Olympia, WA 98504-4460, by **no later than July 1, 2002.**

## ● July/August Inspector Technical Training Open To Electrical Stakeholders

The department provides technical training to our electrical inspection staff and invites municipal inspectors to attend. The next training will cover Emergency and Standby Power Systems, Health Care Facilities, and Fire Pumps. The instructor will be Bruce Reynolds, the Labor and Industries electrical plan review supervisor. We will offer **eight (8) free hours of electrical continuing education units** to all individuals that attend the training. The sessions are from 8 AM to 5 PM at four different locations.

July 18, 2002	Labor and Industries Building, 1000 Washington Way SW, Tumwater
July 25, 2002	Spokane Community College, 1810 Greene Street, Everett
July 30, 2002	West Coast Yakima Center Hotel, 607 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima
August 1, 2002	Spokane Community College, Lair Building, N 1810 Greene Street, Spokane

After electrical inspector space is reserved, any remaining space in the training sessions will be offered to electrical contractors, administrators, electricians, and other industry stakeholders on a first-come, first-served basis. As promised at our statewide stakeholder meetings last fall and winter, the announcement with **instructions how to register will be on our list server first.** (For future announcements, see the article that follows for instructions to join the list)

Any additional space that remains after this initial announcement must be reserved by postal mail only, we will not accept registration by phone. If you want to register for one of the classes, reply by mail to the address below and include: 1) your name, 2) identify the session you want to attend, 3) and give us an address (mail or E-mail, not phone number) to confirm your space by mail or E-mail (your choice).

**Space is first-come, first-served and limited. If you do not receive confirmation by mail or E-mail before July 10th, do not attend the training.** Mail to: Department of Labor and Industries, ATTN: Sheila Lisle, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460.

### ● How To Join Our List Server Automatic E-mail Notification System

The electrical program has a one-way newsgroup (*Electrical News Announcements*) that allows all electrical stakeholders to receive automatic e-mail notification of events and issues. We have the ability to include attachments (usually in Adobe .PDF format) and hyperlinks in these E-mail notices. We are using this service extensively for sending out the *ELECTRICAL CURRENTS* newsletter, and links to current versions of the electrical RCW and WAC, policy updates, stakeholder meeting announcements and other pertinent information from the Electrical Program. This is the fastest and easiest way for our electrical construction industry stakeholders to receive important current information from us. New users should go to <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/electrical.html> and click on “**Join or leave the list**”, then fill in your e-mail address and name.

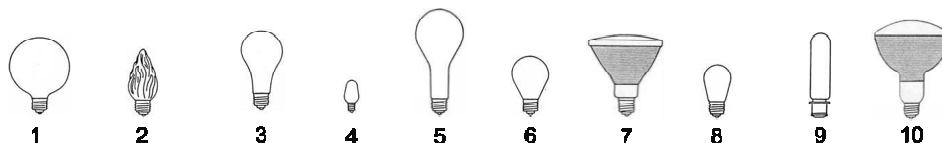
### ● Small Project Plan Review

WAC 296-46A-140(11) has a provision for allowing small projects to have the electrical plan review done at the local inspection office. The rule states “*When the service or feeder load calculation is affected five percent or less by the addition or alteration of five or less branch circuits, plan review for the branch circuits may be requested from the department's local inspection office. Permission for such small project plan review may be granted at the discretion of the electrical inspection field supervisor, the plans examiner supervisor, or the chief electrical inspector.*”

Local review is allowed on the basis that a project involves only minor electrical modifications and the “five percent or less” and “five or less branch circuits” provisions of the rule are met. When a project falls within these parameters, it does not automatically mean that a local review can be done. The floor plan, one-line, panel schedule(s), and calculations presentation submitted to the local supervisor must be simple, clear, precise, and properly documented. If a local review and approval cannot be completed within a few minutes, then the submittal must go to central office for formal review. The local electrical field supervisor may require formal plan review if the facility loads are close to an overload situation, previous local reviews were done on the facility, or the project is complex.

### ● Electrical Question of the Month

**This Month's Question:** Electrical products labeled by all Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) are approved for use in Washington. True or False?



**Last Month's Question:** Can you match the lamp type to the lamp picture? **The answer is:**

Type A 3	Type C 4	Type F 2	Type G 1	Type PAR 7
Type P 6	Type PS 5	Type R 10	Type S 8	Type T 9